

Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 2 Hrs. + 15 mins.

F. M. : 80

Std. : IX

Q1. (Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question)

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following : (25)

- a. Most of the ancient monuments are losing their cultural heritage and are converted into commercial activity spots. Throw light on this statement with authentic examples around you.
- b. You visited a village last week to experience the kind of life the villagers live. You are awfully struck by their poor living conditions like no electricity, no health services and no drinking water. Describe your experience and also give your suggestions to improve their life.
- c. Give your views for or against the following statement : 'slow and steady wins the race'.
- d. Write a short story to illustrate the following moral of life : 'Failures are the stepping stones to success'.
- e. Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Q2. Select one of the following : (10)

- a. You come across an advertisement of an American student inviting pen-friends from India. You decide to write a letter to him. Write the letter describing your age, family, education and hobbies, etc.
- b. You notice that the craze for multi-storey buildings is increasing day by day in big cities but no safety norms are followed. As a result there are many incidents of such commercial and private towers catching fire. Write a letter to the Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of your city about it showing the dangerous consequences of such reckless practice.

Q3. Read the Following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

On September 6, 1997, London was stilled as over a million mourners of Diana, Princess of Wales, kept vigil along the route to Westminster Abbey. The festival of mourning culminated in her extraordinary Funeral which gave way to publicly expressed catharsis. The people's Princess had unlocked hearts, recorded values, presided at the triumph of emotional intelligence over cold intellect, of compassion over tradition. This year will see the resumption of inquiry to examine her fatal car crash: a tragic accident.

Ten years gone, Diana is still the world's most famous Briton, but many of her fellow- country men don't seem sure if she did much more than wear designer dresses. Diana shook up the British monarchy and speeded up its modernisation. She helped to tear down prejudices about AIDS; raised awareness of eating disorders and coalesced opposition to landmines. These are pretty hefty achievement for a woman of little education. From shy bride to passionate campaigner, Diana, Princess of Wales didn't just transform herself- she changed her country. After a decade of her death, she remains an inescapable presence in British life.

The Queen's subjects wept on the streets and flowers carpeted the sidewalks, she was now going to pay her tributes to Diana. While the Queen and her immediate family kept their grief to themselves, there was a whiff of revolution beyond the palace gates. The monarchy realised that it stands or Falls on public opinion.

With limited options, Diana, in her charitable work, set a standard that is hard to equal. She ignored the prevailing prejudices and fears about AIDS to clasp the hands of sufferers, and embraced leprosy patients in Indonesia. Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister of UK, remarked that Diana taught us a new way to be British.

Diana had been brought up in an old-fashioned environment and she was not prepared for the palace life. By the time she married, it was already a place more multi-coloured than it had ever been. The new princess could not fit in. Her rebellion and self-destructive at first reverberated far beyond the palace walls.

Unlike her remote royal in-laws, Diana literally touched the people she met. She always championed the cause of the downtrodden because she was attracted to their suffering. After her separation and divorce, she had given up her patronage of most of the charities she once represented. She fantasised becoming the wife of one or her boyfriends, a heart surgeon, Hasnat Khan, and then Dodi. She also experimented with different therapies that encouraged her to unburden, may be privately. She became a celebrity. She was one of the people and reassured them that anyone could be a star. Diana is still alive and a legend. By dying young, she became and ensured immortality. Better dead than wrinkled.

(a) Give the meanings of each word as used in the passage. (5)

(i) vigil (ii) catharsis (iii) patronage (iv) triumph (v) resumption

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words : (10)

- (i) Mention any three of Diana's achievements during her lifetime.
- (ii) How did people show their love on Diana's death?
- (iii) What did the palace authorities realize on her death?

- (iv) What was Diana's Family background before her marriage?
- (v) What was Diana's dream after being separated from her husband?
- (vi) In what way is Diana remembered today?
- (vii) Use the word 'celebrate' in your own sentence.

c. Summarize Diana's social role in not more than 60 words. (8)

d. Give a title to your summary in 3(c). Give a reason to justify your choice. (2)

4. a. In the following passage fill in each of the numbered in blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. (4)

Upon the passing away of his father, a son put his mother in an old-age home. The old age home had rooms but no fans. After many years of ____1____ (live) there, the old woman was very ill and the doctor ____2____ (think) it appropriate ____3____ (call) the son in.

The mother and son met and talked. When the son asked whether she was comfortable and ____4____ (need) anything, the mother asked him ____5____ (put) fans in the old-age home. ____6____ (surprise), the son said, "Mother you ____7____ (live) here so many years and never told me about this, why now, when not much time is left?

"Because my son, I can live without a fan but I am ____8____ (worry) about you. You will not be able to live without a fan."

- b. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words : (4)

- i. He was very put ____ when he was betrayed by his friends.
- ii. She burst ____ tears after hearing the bad news.
- iii. He was fascinated ____ the idea of becoming an engineer.
- iv. I dip ____ my savings at the end of the month.
- v. I was shocked ____ the sudden news.
- vi. The two families are living ____ the same roof.
- vii. He changed ____ his night clothes.
- viii. He was bent ____ creating problems for me.

- c. Do as directed : (8)

- i. If you tell the truth, you will not be punished.
(Begin : Unless)
- ii. He had only just arrived at the station when there was a terrible explosion.
(Begin : Hardly)
- iii. He ran way from home and stole a car.
(Begin : Not only)
- iv. As soon as he heard the news, he rushed home. (Begin : No sooner)

- v. She is the cleverest pupil in her class.
(Begin : No other.....)
 - vi. He's getting so absent-minded; he can't go on working much longer.
(Begin : He's getting too.....)
 - vii. Since Satish's leg was fractured, the doctor forbade him to go out.
(Begin : Having fractured)
 - viii. Not only did he treat him well, but also helped him
(Begin : Besides.....)
- d. Join the following sentences without using 'and', 'but' or 'so' – (4)
- i. He is very silly. He will believe anything.
 - ii. The boy is still very weak. He must not play football yet.
 - iii. Eva is very clever. She is intelligent too.
 - iv. He is rich. He can easily buy the best car here.